

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 8-10, 14, and 16-17 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 30-37 are new and are based on the original claims.

Claim 38 is based on claim 1 and allowable claims 8-9.

Claim 1 was rejected as indefinite.

The recitation of "materials treating apparatus" has been amended to "materials' treating apparatus" (as has the specification page 3). As disclosed in the specification, the apparatus is an apparatus that treats material.

The recitation of "forming a composite product with the materials treating apparatus" has been amended to "forming a composite product using the materials' treating apparatus".

The recitation concerning "material reacting with water" has been amended to "water-reactive material".

In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is solicited.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 11-13, and 15 stand rejected as anticipated by ROHATGI et al. U.S. 2003/0021915.

ROHATGI does not teach the feeding the combination of a moisture-containing natural fiber material, a binding agent, and

a water-reactive material into an apparatus for treating materials. ROHATGI does not teach altering the natural fiber material, within the apparatus, by reacting the water-reactive material with the water present in the natural fiber material. ROHATGI does not teach forming a composite product from the altered natural fiber material, the natural fiber material being altered by the water-reactive material reacting with water from the natural fiber material.

In view of the differences, the claims are believed to be both novel and non-obvious.

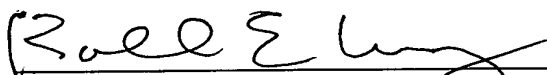
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

Applications believe the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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